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CLAIMS:

1. A peelable lid structure for a container, the peelable lid structure including:

a barrier layer for preventing the passage of fluids; and

a tab extending from a centre panel of the peelable lid structure for removing the peelable lid structure from the container to allow access to the container contents;

in which the barrier layer includes less than 20 microns thickness of aluminium;

and in which the tab is folded over the centre panel and secured in the folded position on the centre panel for processing of can contents and/or handling operations.

2. A peelable lid structure according to claim 1, in which the aluminium layer is not more than 15 microns in thickness.

3. A peelable lid structure according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the peelable lid structure includes one or more of the following layers: polyethylene terephthalate (PET), aluminium, nylon and/or polypropylene.

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4. A peelable lid structure according to any one of claims 1 to 3, in which tab is secured in the folded position by an adhesive and/or by heat sealing.

5. A peelable lid structure according to claim 4, in which the tab or centre panel includes a patch, an area of which is exposed by a hole in the tab or centre panel respectively, and the tab is secured in the folded position by the adhesive or heat sealing to the exposed area of patch.

6. A method of forming a peelable lid structure (1) having a centre panel (4) and a tab (3) extending from the centre panel (4), the method including folding the tab portion (3) of the peelable lid structure over the centre panel (4) and securing the tab (3) to the centre panel (4);

characterised by the steps of:

forming a hole (5) in a portion of a lidding material (6) corresponding to the centre panel (4) of the peelable lid structure (1);

covering the hole (5) by fixing a patch (8) to a first side of the lidding material, thereby forming an area of patch (8) exposed by the hole on the opposite side of the lidding material; and

cutting the peelable lid structure (1) out of the lidding material (6);

and characterised in that the folding of the tab (3) thereby covers the exposed area; and

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securing of the tab (3) to the centre panel (4) is by heat sealing or bonding of the exposed region.

7. A method of forming a peelable lid structure (1) having a centre panel (4) and a tab (3) extending from the centre panel (4), the method including folding the tab portion (3) of the peelable lid structure over the centre panel (4) and securing the tab (3) to the centre panel (4);

characterised by:

forming a hole (5) in a portion of a lidding material (6) corresponding to the tab (3) of the peelable lid structure;

covering the hole (5) by fixing a patch to a first side of the lidding material, thereby forming an area of patch exposed by the hole on the opposite side of the lidding material; and

cutting the peelable lid structure (1) out of the lidding material (6);

and characterised in that by folding the tab portion (3) of the peelable lid structure over the centre panel (4), the exposed region is covered by the centre panel; and

securing the tab (3) to the centre panel (4) is by heat sealing or bonding of the exposed area.

8. A method according to claim 7, in which the hole is formed in an inner part (11) of the tab and the patch (8) comprises an outer part (10) of the tab portion of the peelable lid structure, the method further comprising

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folding the outer part of the tab over an inner part of the tab, thereby covering the hole and forming the exposed area.

9. A method according to claim 7, further comprising:
folding an outer part (10) of the tab over an inner part (11) of the tab so that the patch (8) is disposed between the outer and inner parts of the tab; and
fixing the outer part (10) of the tab to the inner part (11).